

**Remarks**

The Applicants are pleased to note the Examiner's prior indication on page 4 of the Office Action dated 28 December 2004, to the effect that at least certain claims pertain to allowable subject matter. The Applicants believe that this Amendment places all claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-5, 23, 26, 29, 30, 34-64, and 67 are pending in the application following entry of this Amendment. Claims 1, 6-22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31-33, 65, and 66 have been canceled. Claims 2, 23, 29, 30, 34-37, 39, 40, 45, 58, and 60 have been amended. Claim 67 has been added. Claim 2 is the only independent claim pending.

Claim 2 has been amended by removing the word "about," as required by the Examiner.

Claims 2, 23, 26, and 39 have been amended to delete the word "resin" and to substitute the word "latex" in place thereof, as required by the Examiner.

Claim 2 has been written in independent form, incorporating every recitation of claim 1, from which claim 2 previously depended.

Claim 67 has been added. The enclosed product description sheet "RHOPLEX® I-98 RHOPLEX® I-62 Colloidal Dispersions" indicates that it was known in the art that RHOPLEX® brand acrylic latices are available having solids contents in at least the range 30-50% by weight. The Applicants believe that it was agreed in telephone discussion with the Examiner that submission of such product information can be used to establish that acrylic latices of varying solids content are known in the art.

The dependency of each of claims 23, 29, 30, 34-37, 39, 40, 45, and 58 has been amended, such that each of these claims depends from claim 2, rather than from claim 1.

Previously-independent claim 60 has been re-written in dependent form, depending from claim 2.

No new matter is added by the amendments and additions made herein.

Support for amendments to the specification is found as follows.

In paragraph [0013], the viscosity unit "centipoise" has been substituted in place of "Poise." This amendment is supported by the same paragraph as filed. The Applicants believe

that it was agreed in telephone discussion with the Examiner that correction of "240" to "24000" centipoise and of "880" to "88000" centipoise should be viewed as correction of an obvious error, for substantially the reasons stated by the Applicants in the Amendment filed on 23 June 2005.

The paragraphs inserted after paragraph [0019] are supported by the text of claims 26, 42, 44, 48-54, and 61 as filed.

Support for amendments to the claims is found in the specification and claims as filed.

### **Response to Rejections**

In item 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the terms "air dryable polymeric resins" and "acrylic latex polymers." These terms are not used in the amended claims, and the Examiner's objection is believed to be moot.

In item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner recognizes that the subject matter of originally filed claims 26, 42, 44, 48-54, and 61 is supported in the text of the claims as filed, but requires incorporation of the claims into the description part of the specification. The text of these claims has been inserted in the five paragraphs inserted following paragraph [0019], and the Examiner's objection is believed to be moot.

In item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner requires cancellation of the correction from "centipoise" to "Poise" in paragraph [0013] that was made in the Applicants' previous response. That previous change has been reversed, and paragraph [0013] has been amended to recite "centipoise." The Examiner's objection is believed to be moot in light of this amendment.

In items 4 and 5 of the Office Action, The Examiner rejects claims 31 and 32. Both of claims 31 and 32 have been canceled, and the Examiner's rejection is believed to be moot.

In item 6, the Examiner rejects claims 1-66 because, in the Examiner's opinion, the specification does not adequately describe the recitation "at least 15% by weight of an air dryable polymeric resin" that appeared in now-canceled claim 1. All pending claims in this application now depend from claim 2, which recites, "20% to 35%, by weight, of an air-dryable polymeric latex," and the Applicants believe that the Examiner's rejection is inapplicable to all of the pending claims for that reason. The 20%-35% recitation appeared in claim 2, as filed.

In item 7, the Examiner rejects claims 1-66, because, in the Examiner's opinion, the specification does not adequately enable the recitation "at least 15% by weight of an air dryable polymeric resin" that appeared in now-canceled claim 1. All pending claims in this application now depend from claim 2, which recites, "20% to 35%, by weight, of an air-dryable polymeric latex," and the Applicants believe that the Examiner's rejection is inapplicable to all of the pending claims for that reason. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that at least the range 15%-70% is enabled, and the claimed range falls entirely within that enabled range.

In item 8, the Examiner rejects claims 1-66. In the Examiner's opinion, recitation of a range of latex contents does not adequately inform a skilled artisan in this field how much latex to add in order to achieve an acceptable cohesion. The Applicants point out that every skilled artisan in this field knows that a grout must have sufficient cohesion to hold together when dried, and that, if any experimentation at all is necessary to make a grout having the claimed latex content, such experimentation is merely routine and simple to perform. Simply put, a skilled artisan would use enough latex to make a "grout" -- a composition that exhibits cohesion upon drying. The Applicants have amended the sole independent claim to explicitly recite that, "the latex ha[s] a solids content sufficient to form a solid grout from the composition upon drying." The Applicants respectfully contend that a skilled artisan is able to formulate the claimed grout composition without undue (if any) experimentation. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this rejection in view of the level of skill in this art and to withdraw this rejection.

The Applicants have also added claim 67, which recites a specific solids content for the latex recited in the independent claim. The Applicants respectfully contend that the Examiner's rejection in item 8 of the Office Action is inapplicable to claim 67.

In items 9-11 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-66 in view of objections to several terms. Each of those terms has been removed from the pending claims, and the Examiner's rejection is believed to be moot.

In items 12-14 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 6-19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31-33, and 40-66 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Caldwell in view of one or more of several other patents. Claim 2 was not rejected by the Examiner (properly so, because none of the cited patents discloses a latex content in the 20%-35% by weight recited in claim 2). Claim 1 has been canceled, and claim 2 (including the latex content recitation) is the sole remaining independent claim. The Applicants respectfully contend that the Examiner's rejection of several claims pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Caldwell in view of one or more of several other patents continues to be inapplicable to claim 2 and is also inapplicable to all claims that depend from claim 2 (i.e., all remaining pending claims).

The Applicants believe that no response to items 15 and 16 are required, those items pertaining to issues that may be taken up in one or more related patent applications.

**Summary**

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully contends that each of claims 2-5, 23, 26, 29, 30, 34-64, and 67 is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the Examiner's rejections are requested, and the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible time.

Respectfully submitted,

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30 August 2006  
(Date)

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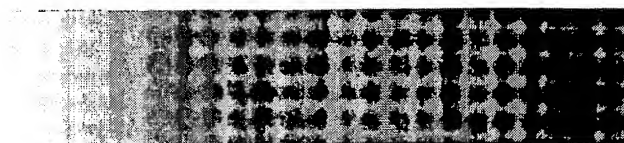
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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time  
Product description sheet "RHOPLEX® I-98 RHOPLEX® I-62 Colloidal  
Dispersions" (3 pp.)



**RHOPLEX® I-98**  
**RHOPLEX® I-62**  
 COLLOIDAL  
 DISPERSIONS



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## Description

Both Rhoplex I-98 and Rhoplex I-62 are aqueous, acrylic alkali soluble colloids, supplied unneutralized. Readily neutralized, these modified acrylics can be used as a sole vehicle or letdown resin typically recommended for corrugated substrates. Both contain acid and hydroxy functional monomers, which may be used in post print crosslinking.

## Characteristics

- Supplied unneutralized
- Choice of amine for solubilization
- Good transfer properties
- Good gloss and rheological modifiers
- Rhoplex I-62 has less drink and Rhoplex I-98 has more drink

## Typical Properties

	<b>Rhoplex I-62</b>	<b>Rhoplex I-98</b>
Appearance	Off-white milky emulsion	Off-white milky emulsion
Solids, %	50.0	30.0
pH	3.5	3.5
Viscosity, cP	250	100
Tg, °C	45	45
Acid Number	100	100
Hydroxy Number	63	63
Molecular Weight	15000	30000
Flash Point, °F	>200	>200
Heat Stability	Yes	Yes
Freeze/Thaw Stability	Protect from freezing	Protect from freezing
VOC	No	No

## Composition

**Rhoplex I-62    Rhoplex I-98**

Water	47.1	13.8
Rhoplex I-62	50.0	-
Rhoplex I-98	-	83.3
Ammonia	2.9	2.9
Total:	100.0	100.0
Solids, %	25	25
pH	8.5	8.5
Viscosity, cP	600	1000

### Solvent Compatibility with Rhoplex I-62 and Rhoplex I-98

Rhoplex I-62 and Rhoplex I-98 neutralized are compatible with the typical solvents and glycol ethers utilized in the graphic arts industry.

### Compatibility with Other Polymers

Rhoplex I-62 and Rhoplex I-98 are compatible with the standard styrene/acrylics that are used in the graphic arts industry.

### Typical Starting Point Formulation

#### Application: Flexographic Ink with a Predispersed

##### Pigment for a Paper Substrate

Rhoplex I-62	22.5	-
Rhoplex I-98	-	37.5
Water	21.2	11.2
Ammonia	1.3	1.3
Flexiverse RFD-1150 <sup>1</sup>	40.0	40.0
Luciwax® 37	5.0	5.0
Water	10.0	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0
Viscosity, #2 Zahn cup, sec.	25	25
Pigment/Binder ratio	1/1	1/1

<sup>1</sup> Sun Chemical

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